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February 27, 2001

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/266,935; Filed: March 12, 1999
For: **Compositions and Methods for Enhanced Synthesis of Nucleic Acid
Molecules**
Inventors: Li *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4560001/RWE/BJD
Art Unit: 1656

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. One (1) Return Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Commissioner for Patents
February 27, 2001
Page 2

A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

RWE/BJD/CEJ:amm

Enclosures

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